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Aruba to unite tonight again for "Earth Hour"

Requesting all citizens to switch off non-essential lights from 8:30PM to 9:30PM

TONIGHT, March 23, 2013 at 8:30 p.m., hundreds of millions of people in more than 150 countries across every continent will unite in a single moment of celebration and contemplation of the planet by switching off their lights for one designated hour – Earth Hour. By taking part in this global 'lights out' event they will be acknowledging their commitment to a personal action that benefits the planet in the year ahead. Just as in previous years, Earth Hour Aruba Community Group (EHACG) is planning to participate in Earth Hour 2013 and to make

this event even bigger this year. Elmar is supporting and sponsoring the event this year again.

EHACG was founded in 2011 with the main purpose to encourage individuals, businesses, government and NGO's in Aruba to participate in this global event. EH2011 and EH2012 were considered a huge success and thanks to our efforts, the endorsement of the government, your personal involvement and the actions of hundreds of participants Aruba has been recognized as an official Earth Hour participating country by the WWF and the Earth Hour organizing committee (based in Singapore).

Earth Hour began as a single-city initiative – in Sydney, Australia – in 2007 and has since grown into a global movement with hundreds of millions of people from more than 6,000 cities and towns across every continent switching off their lights for Earth Hour 2012, creating history as the world's greatest ever environmental action. Some of the world's most famous man-made marvels and natural wonders, including China's Forbidden City, Eiffel Tower, Table Mountain, Great Pyramids of Egypt, Buckingham

60+
EARTH
HOUR



EARTH HOUR 2013
DIASABRA 23 DI MAART, 8:30 PM
PAGA LUSNAN NO ESENCIAL NA CAS

Palace, Brazil's Christ the Redeemer statue, Niagara and Victoria Falls, Empire State Building, Sydney Opera House and many more global icons stood in darkness as a powerful symbol of landmark environmental action.

This year, NV ELMAR has partnered up again with Earth Hour Aruba Community Group and is the official sponsor of the event. ELMAR, as national electricity distribution company, is promoting awareness among the citizens to consume energy in a responsible manner. Furthermore ELMAR is working on different projects to implement renewable energy, with the purpose to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

Continued on page 5

Britain hit by spring snowfall

LONDON (AFP) - Britain was hit by unseasonal heavy snowfall yesterday that left tens of thousands of homes without power and forced the closure of a nuclear site.

Up to 40 centimeters (16 inches) of snow was expected in the worst-affected areas.

A spell of bad weather this month has seen British media dub it "Miserable March".

The Met Office national weather service said that while it was not unusual to see snow in March, the cold spell had been unusually long.

The government dismissed newspaper reports that gas stocks, drained by the ongoing wintry weather, were just days away from running out.

The Sellafield nuclear site on the northwest English coast was forced to close as a precaution due to the weather.

Staff were being sent home



A suburban street in Liverpool covered in a blanket of snow.

from the reprocessing and waste storage facility but there was no evidence of any safety issues, its operator said.

Sellafield was home to the world's first commercial nuclear power station, but it stopped generating electricity in 2003.

Across the Irish Sea, Northern Ireland bore the brunt of

the snowfall, caused by cold westerly winds from Russia and northern Europe colliding with an area of low pressure moving eastwards off the Atlantic Ocean.

The snow forced the closure of Belfast City Airport, though the larger Belfast International remains open.

Northern Ireland's 2014 football World Cup qualifier with Russia was postponed until Saturday due to the snowy pitch at Belfast's Windsor Park.

More than 1,000 schools around Britain have been shut, while towns in Cornwall, southwest England, have witnessed flooding following torrential rain.

Temperatures were as low as minus 1.9 degrees Celsius (28.5 degrees Fahrenheit) in Dalwhinnie, central Scotland.

Weather conditions were forecast to improve over the weekend.

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Exciting semi-finals lead to 3 finalists in reading competition

Nine participating schools receive 1,000 florins from generous local sponsors



All participants of 9 different primary schools in Aruba



The 3 finalists for the final round on May 3rd: Graciella Herrera, Meghan Arendsz and Mikhaila Vrolijk



Olga Buckley hands the book *Mr Finney* by author Princess Laurentien, which the Princess signed as a present for the 3 finalists

A group of students representing nine primary schools on the island participated in the semi-finals of the reading competition Ban Orlando Lesando (Let's go to Orlando reading) on Thursday March 21st. During a fun-filled afternoon the 2nd round in the competition resulted in 3 finalists for May 3rd's grand finale. The reading competition is organized by Foundation Bon Nochi Drumi Dushi and Marriott Vacation Club Aruba to promote and encourage reading amongst children both at school and at home.

Desiree Correa, Gina Ramsbottom and Selvia Lumenier were approached by the Foundation to serve as jury members because of their ex-

pertise and rich careers in the book industry. Correa is a school teacher and the author of books for both young children and youth for many years. Lumenier works as an editor at a magazine. She also serves as editor of childrens books including two books from this reading competition: 'Horcan y Mayra' and 'Catalino Bocachica.' Ramsbottom is editor at the Department of Education in Aruba and coordinates the publication process of childrens books. These three professionals were in charge of reviewing 17 entries from 14 schools that signed up for the reading competition.

Continued on page 5

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Hyatt Regency unveils their unique new Mexicado restaurant



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Aficionados of fine food are well aware that Mexico is a country of haute cuisine, well beyond the fast food fare most commonly known to the general public. Hyatt Regency has revamped their menu and design of their popular Ruinas Del Mar to pair it with a gourmet taste from south of the border in their new Mexicado restaurant.

The charming new eatery was unveiled to island media and dignitaries on Thursday evening, March 21. Sporting indoor and outdoor dining either in the courtyard or overlooking their stunningly landscaped gardens, the restaurant offers a tempting menu of gourmet dishes, as well as 30 different types of tequila in the dedicated bar. Hyatt alone of-



Guacamole and Black Bean dip table

fers 'Mi Casa' brand, which is being imported to Aruba exclusively for Mexicado.

Visitors for the gala opening were offered samples of Casa Nobles tequila, the signature brand of famed musician Carlos Santana, as well as marvelously mixed margaritas and sangria on tap. They perfectly complement the diverse variety of appetizers and main dishes that comprise the new menu of



Lobster tail with garlic sauce

Mexican haute cuisine: ceviche, fresh mussels, mango salad, chicken quesadillas and empanada were some of the starters sampled, along with an elegant Lobster Tail in Garlic Sauce, and tenderloin. Aside from the a la carte dishes, patrons will find a table in the courtyard laden with guacamole and black bean dip, plus several garnishes and large, crispy tortilla chips, for limitless nibbling throughout the meal. A very nice way to segue into the main course, paired with the refreshing sangria.

Executive Assistant Food & Beverage Manager Drew Carnahan was joined by Executive Chef Vincent Pellegrini in welcoming Aruba's Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers, for the gala event. It included a sampling of the renovated menu at Ruinas Del Mar, which Drew described as a "seafood and steakhouse," but offers a number of local specialties, fully taking advantage of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. This in-



teresting menu provides a nice mélange, punctuated by traditional favorites such as Keshi Yena, with a gourmet touch. The area where they serve their famous Sunday brunch has been expanded to better accommodate clientele.

The new Mexicado is open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner only from 6:30 to 10:30 PM

Rosalie Klein

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A landmark homecoming for Rosa Gonzalez of Aruba



Rosa and Bjorn with her friend of 40 years Maria

Long time friends of Rosa Gonzalez, who grew up on Aruba, were always happy to see her back for a visit, but on Thursday afternoon, March 21, they shared a very special moment with their expatriate friend, now living in Ecuador.

Rosa and her significant other of over 18 years, Bjorn

Opermann, met on Isla Margarita, Venezuela where they made a home together for 15 years before deciding to escape what they considered an oppressive government. Bjorn had sailed there from Norway decades past, and never left. They love their life together in their new home, the seaside

town of Manta. "Ecuador is a beautiful country, and its economy is booming right now," they explain of their decision.

After nearly 20 years together, Bjorn says "we certainly know each other well enough," and they decided to marry. Rosa wanted this to be on her home island of Aruba, surrounded by family and her



Rosa and Bjorn with her dear friends



beloved friends. Some of those friendships have lasted 40 years, such as with one of her witnesses, Maria.

Joining Maria at the dais as witnesses, to support their long time friend were Grace and Zaida, as well. Berto Christiaans of the Census Office performed a short, but heartfelt ceremony on the joys of married life, warning there would be trials, but patience and always keeping their love foremost, should see the newlyweds through those difficult moments. Bjorn and Rosa sealed the deal with a tender kiss. It was chuckles all around when Mr. Christiaans handed them the traditional "Trowboek," a beautiful wedding document, and he pointed out there are pages for officially entering the names of up to six offspring.

Though living a long time away from Aruba, it was back to the island of

her youth that Rosa Gonzalez turned for this milestone in life. Her friends were thrilled to see her so happy, and their joining in marriage had greater meaning in the presence of those special friends she holds so dear.

THE MORNING NEWS applaud Rosa and Bjorn on their decision it is "never too late for love" and wish them many more happy years together.

Congratulation and many more years filled with love and happiness especially from longtime friend Ingrid Does.

Rosalie Klein





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Aruba to unite this Saturday again for "Earth Hour"

Continued from page 1

By turning off all non-essential lighting during Earth Hour 2013, committing to a positive action for the planet and encouraging our citizens to do the same, we will help lead the growing global resolve to realize our role as custodians of the planet. Earth Hour also provides an excellent forum for all citizens, including business, individuals, parents and educators, to hold meaningful discussions about the ways that our community can take action and be part of the solution to our environmental challenges.

We hope the whole Aruban community will join us by turning off the (non-essential) lights at home during Earth Hour and make a commitment to go beyond the hour with a positive ongoing action for the environment.

Also we would like to invite the Aruban community to join the official 'lights off' ceremony at Willem III Tower in Oranjestad during Earth Hour on Saturday, March 23rd starting at 08:00 PM.

A commitment to Earth Hour enables all of us here in Aruba to not only express our concern about the health of our local environment, but to let all the people of the world know that we stand with them in finding solutions to our environmental challenges and celebrating the one thing we all have in common – the planet.

Please join our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/arubaeearthhour> to stay informed on local Earth Hour events and visit www.earth-hour.org for more information on EH events around the globe

Exciting semi-finals lead to 3 finalists in reading competition

Continued from page 2

After careful review a group of nine semi-finalists were selected by these jury members. Winners of the first round were Graciella Herrera of Pius X School, Meghan Arendsz of Colegio Sagrado Curason, Shamelyn Pena of Colegio Felipe B. Tromp, Bjorn Tromp of O.L.V. Fatima Colege, Jeanmila Richardson of Scol Caiqueto, Edilianne Caster of Colegio San Hose, Zoe Kock of Colegio Hilario Angela, Carl-Angelo Boekhoudt of Maria School and Mikhaila Vrolijk of Cacique Macuarima

School.

These nine semi-finalists entered the second round on March 21st that consisted of two assignments involving lots of drama and fun. The jury then selected three winners to enter the grand finale on May 3rd. Finalists are Graciella Herrera of Pius X School, Meghan Arendsz of Colegio Sagrado Curason and Mikhaila Vrolijk of Cacique Macuarima School.

"We are truly grateful to have received such tremendous support from these local businesses," said Bettina Gonzalez

of Marriott Vacation Club Aruba, co-partner in the reading competition. Surely by reading you enhance the opportunity for a better education and therefore pave the way for the future leaders on our magnificent island."

The grand finale of the reading competition Ban Orlando Lesando will take place on Friday May 3rd at EPI Seroe Blanco from 3-5 pm. Winner of this exciting finale will receive a week's stay at a Marriott Vacation Club resort in Orlando as well as roundtrip airfare for



**The 3 ladies that form the jury of this competition:
Desiree Correa, Gina Ramsbottom and Selvia Lumenier**

two to Orlando, Florida. Spectators are warmly invited to at-

tend the final round and support these finalists.



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International News

US Senate kicks off marathon 'vote-a-rama'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US senators eager to head home for the congressional recess on Friday launched what could become a legislative all-nighter -- a rare, free-wheeling session known as a "vote-a-rama."

For the first time in four years, the 100 members of the Senate will pack the chamber for 10 hours or more, as of Friday Friday, for dozens of back-to-back votes on amendments to the Senate's pending budget resolution.

Because of a quirk of Senate rules peculiar to the budget, lawmakers may offer an unlimited number of amendments to the fiscal blueprint between the end of debate and the vote itself.

More than 400 amendments have been filed, according to Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who called the vote-a-rama in order to get

the 2014 budget done and dusted before the two-week recess.

The amendments need not be related to budget matters, and most will fall by the wayside, either withdrawn by their sponsors after negotiations or folded into other amendments.

But some will carry a political sting that could be used against lawmakers later if and when they vote against them.

Republican Richard Burr, for instance, introduced a measure to repeal what he describes as the \$1 trillion tax resulting from President Barack Obama's healthcare law.

The move will fail, but Republicans will use such "no" votes to tar Democrats as tax-and-spend liberals.

Other measures seek to cut off US aid to Pakistan, push for tighter gun laws, forbid drone killings of Americans on US soil, or bar unemployment

compensation for millionaires.

Time discipline will be key. Debate between votes will be held to as little as 30 seconds per side, a lightning pace given the deliberative nature of the Senate.

The first amendment under consideration, a measure to boost wildfire suppression efforts by \$100 million, was dispensed with in 90 seconds.

When some lawmakers began to wander off after the third vote, Murray reined them in. "You leave at your own peril," she warned.

A third of the senators have never experienced the free-for-all, which last took place in 2009, the most recent year Obama's Democrats tabled a budget.

Veteran Republican John McCain, who has seen his fair share of vote-a-ramas, dismissed the event as a "charade."

Sarkozy charged with taking advantage of elderly heiress

BORDEAUX (AFP) - Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy was on Thursday charged with taking advantage of the elderly L'Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt, his lawyer told AFP, adding that he would immediately appeal.

The move came after Sarkozy was unexpectedly summoned for a face-to-face encounter with staff members of Bettencourt over claims he accepted envelopes stuffed with cash from the world's richest woman to illegally finance his 2007 election campaign.

Sarkozy's lawyer Thierry Herzog lambasted the decision as "legally incoherent and unfair".

Overall 17 people have so far been charged in the case.

Judicial officials earlier told AFP Sarkozy had been summoned for an encounter with Bettencourt's former butler Pascal Bonnefoy.

Jean-Michel Gentil, the Bordeaux-based judge in charge of the case, was hoping the confrontation would allow him to establish how many times Sarkozy visited Bettencourt during his successful

campaign.

Sarkozy, 58, has always maintained that he visited Bettencourt's residence only once during the campaign, contrary to testimony from several members of the multi-billionaire's staff.

Bettencourt is now 90 and has been in poor health since 2006. Sarkozy, it is alleged, obtained significant amounts of money from her, simultaneously breaching electoral spending limits and taking advantage of a person weakened by ill health.

Bettencourt's former accountant, Claire Thibout, told police in 2010 that she had handed envelopes filled with cash to Bettencourt's right-hand man, Patrice de Maistre, on the understanding it was to be passed on to Sarkozy's campaign treasurer, Eric Woerth.

Investigators suspect up to four million euros (\$5.2 million) of Bettencourt's cash subsequently made its way into Sarkozy's party coffers.

Sarkozy lost his immunity from prosecution when he was defeated in the 2012 presidential election by Socialist Francois Hollande.



BETHLEHEM, Palestinian Territories (AFP) - US President Barack Obama on Friday visited Bethlehem's Nativity Church built on the site where tradition says Jesus was born, at the end of a three-day trip to Israel and the West Bank. As the huge motorcade wound through the steep, narrow streets of the biblical hillside town, shops were closed and small crowds of onlookers watched in silence, with no sign of the enthusiasm which usually greets the convoy. Some held up signs of protest, one reading "No return no peace" and another saying "Gringo, return to your colony." Entering through the "Door of Humility" which, with its very low lintel, forces most adults of normal height to stoop, Obama looked around the cavernous, darkened interior of the church, examining ornate gold icons as a priest read out a blessing.

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International News

Three Marines dead after US base shooting

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A US Marine shot and killed two colleagues before apparently turning the gun on himself at a military base in Virginia, the US Defense Department said on Friday.

Officials said the shooting happened late Thursday at the Quantico Marine base not far from Washington DC.

The suspected shooter and the victims were Marines who worked at an officer candidate school at the base, said base spokesman Sergeant Christopher Zahn.

The shooter and one of the victims were men and the other victim was a woman, Zahn said.

There was no immediate word on a motive, and no details of the shooting were given.

Pentagon spokesman said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel was "saddened" upon learning of the deaths of the servicemen.

CBS News and other media reported the gunman first killed a male Marine, then barricaded himself inside a barracks. He was found dead later of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound.

A second body was found in the officer candidate school, these reports quoted another spokesman, First Lieutenant Augustin Solivan, as saying.

Immediately after the shooting, the base went into lockdown, which has since been lifted.



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Pope wants Church to 'intensify' dialogue with Islam

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis on Friday called for the Roman Catholic Church to "intensify" its dialogue with Islam, echoing hopes in the Muslim world for better ties with the Vatican during his reign.

"It is important to intensify dialogue among the various religions and I am thinking particularly of dialogue with Islam," the new pontiff said in

an address to foreign ambassadors at the Vatican.

Francis's predecessor Benedict XVI was seen by some Muslim leaders as hostile to Islam and the change at the top had been welcomed by the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and Al-Azhar, Sunni Islam's highest seat of learning.

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, head of the Saudi-based OIC,

said earlier this month that he hoped "the relationship between Islam and Christianity will regain its cordiality and sincere friendship".

Mahmud Azab, adviser for inter-faith affairs to Al-Azhar imam Ahmed al-Tayyeb in Cairo, also told AFP earlier: "As soon as a new policy emerges, we will resume the dialogue with the Vatican".

Al-Azhar broke off ties in

2011 after Benedict called for the protection of Christian minorities following a suicide bombing at a church in Egypt.

Benedict was also heavily criticised early in his reign when he recounted a Byzantine emperor's description of the Muslim Prophet Mohammed as a warmonger who spread evil teachings.

In his address on Friday, Francis also called for the

Church to dialogue more with non-believers -- returning to an effort begun during Benedict's reign amid rising secularism in the Western world.

The Argentine pope said he wanted to "build bridges connecting all people" and said this was particularly significant for him personally because of his own Italian immigrant roots.



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Health & Living

Traffic pollution may cause 14% of childhood asthma: study

PARIS (AFP) - As much as 14 percent of chronic childhood asthma may be caused by people living near busy roads and exposed to traffic pollution, a study in 10 European cities found Friday.

The study, released by the European Respiratory Journal, matched local health data with exposure to traffic pollution in Barcelona, Bilbao, Brussels, Granada, Ljubljana, Rome, Seville, Stockholm, Valencia and Vienna.

They calculated proximity to busy roads, defined as carrying 10,000 vehicles per day.

"We estimated that an average of 33,200 asthma cases (14 percent of all asthmatic children) were attributable to near-road traffic-related pollutants," the researchers wrote.

The results were comparable, the authors said, to the burden associated with passive smoking -- which the World Health Organisation blames for four to 18 percent of asthma cases in children.

Of the 10 cities studied, a third of the combined population was estimated to live within 75 metres of a busy road, and more than half within 150 metres.

The team also measured traffic pollution's impact on coronary heart disease among older adults, and estimated that 28 percent of such cases may be attributable to near-road exposure.

India's upper house passes tougher rape law

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's upper house on Thursday gave its seal of approval to a new bill toughening punishment for sex offenders, including the death penalty if a victim dies.

Two days after the lower house of parliament approved the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, the upper house voted overwhelmingly for the legislation, which for the first time also contains new penalties for stalking, groping, voyeurism and acid attacks.

The drive for new laws was prompted by the fatal gang-rape of a student on a bus in New Delhi in December which triggered nationwide protests

about the levels of crime against women.

The toughened legislation provides for a minimum 20-year prison sentence for gang-rape, which can be extended to life in jail.

It also allows for the death sentence if a rape victim dies or is left in a vegetative state. Under existing laws, rapists face seven to 10 years in jail.

The gang-rape of a Swiss cyclist last Friday again highlighted the dangers facing women in India while a British woman suffered leg injuries earlier this week as she escaped her hotel over fears of a sex attack by the manager.

Old grandfathers, abuse in women linked to autism

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Having an older grandfather or being a mother who was abused in her youth are linked to higher odds of having a child with autism, according to two studies published..

The analysis by two separate teams appears in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry, adding to research that suggests hereditary and environmental influences on autism risk likely reach across multiple generations.

The study on grandfathers examined national records of nearly 6,000 people with autism and 31,000 healthy controls born in Sweden since 1932.

They found that men who were 50 or older when they had a daughter were 1.79 times more likely to have a grandchild with autism, compared to men who had children when they were age 20-24.

Men who had a son when they were 50 or older were 1.67 times more likely to have a grandchild with autism.

The study was led by King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry, Karolinska Institutet in Sweden and the Queensland Brain Institute in Australia.

Lead author Emma Frans said scientists already know that paternal age is a risk fac-

tor for autism, which affects as many as one in 88 in the United States and about one in 100 in Britain.

Co-author Avi Reichenberg, from King's Institute of Psychiatry, added that the increased risk was "small," but that the findings are "important in understanding the complex way in which autism develops."

The second study was carried out by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), and was based on data from the US Nurses' Health Study II.

It examined records from 451 mothers of children with autism and more than 52,000 mothers of children without autism.



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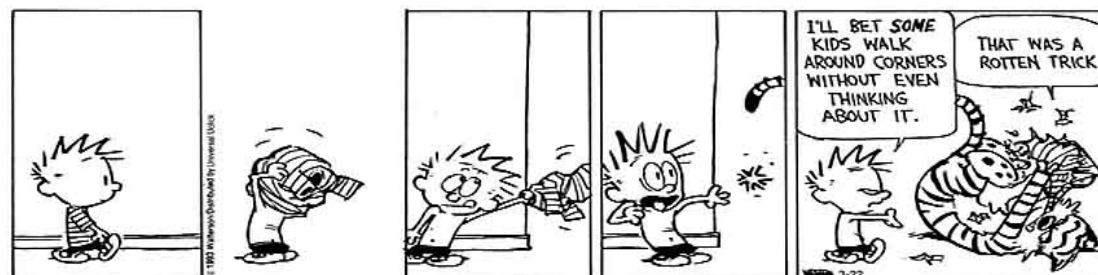
PICKLES



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ACROSS

1. Pig's digs
4. Wrangler company
8. Acme
12. Weeding implement
13. Leer
14. Therefore (Lat.)
15. Fore's opposite
16. Female party givers
18. Anthony of "Zorba the Greek"
20. Guess at a price (abbr.)
21. Fairy tale starter
24. Asta, for one
28. Tote bag
32. One of the Three Stooges
33. "E pluribus"
34. Dam-building org.
35. "Ooh-___" (hyph.)
36. Fisherman's need
37. Smirked
39. Foe
42. Turn rapidly
43. Dunce
45. Brooks of C&W
49. Napoleon's surname
54. Wonderment

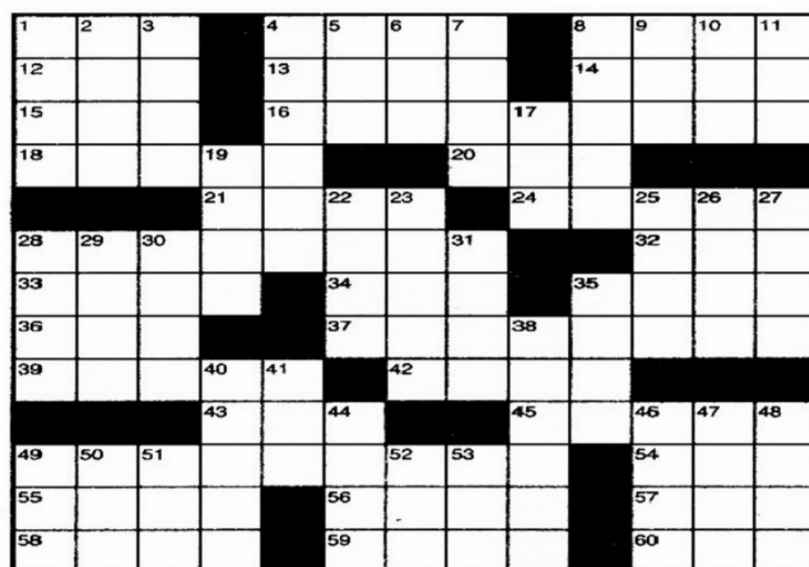
DOWN

1. NBA center O'Neal
2. Vegetarian staple
3. Abominable Snowman
4. Jay's predecessor
5. Id's partner
6. Raised rails
7. Musical Wentz or Seeger
8. Sauce for pasta
9. Verbal pauses
10. Grow older
11. Certain boxing wins (abbr.)
17. Psychic inits.
19. Par
22. Furry purrers
23. Former Graceland resident
25. Actor Sharif
26. Singer Natalie
27. Lettuce portion
28. Make well
29. In due time
30. Disrespectful
31. Desk light
35. Actress Olin
38. City bird
40. Groans
41. Chihuahua's bark

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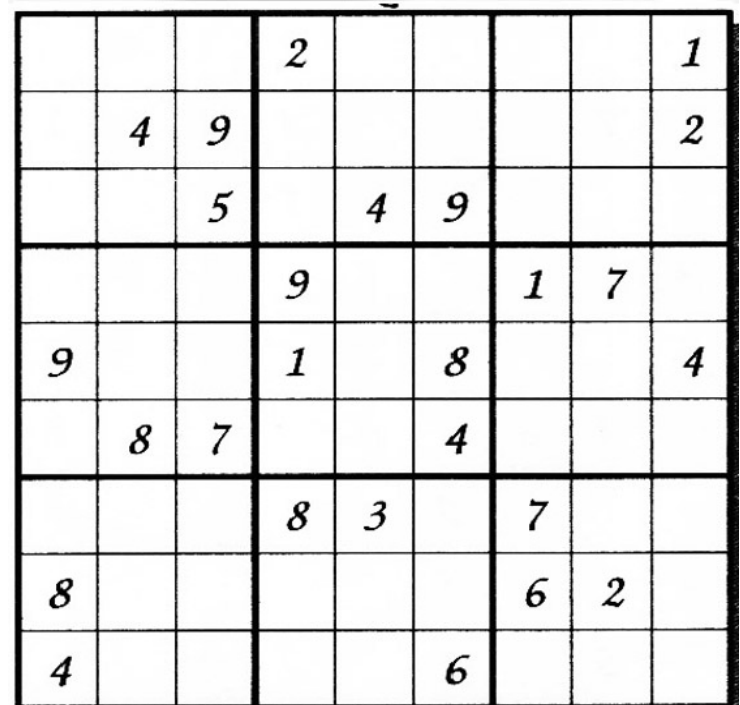
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	1	8	9	6	4	7	5	3
6	7	9	5	1	3	8	2	4
5	3	4	2	8	1	6	9	7
9	8	6	7	3	5	2	4	1
4	5	2	8	1	9	6	3	7
8	4	1	9	6	7	5	3	2
2	8	5	6	7	9	3	1	4
7	9	5	1	8	4	6	2	3
1	6	7	4	5	2	8	9	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

Finance Fitch places Britain's top rating on negative watch

LONDON (AFP) - Fitch announced on Friday that it has placed Britain's top-level AAA credit rating on watch for possible downgrade because the government's latest forecasts expect debt to peak later and at a higher level than previously expected.

The ratings agency said it plans to complete its review of Britain by the end of April.

The news came one month after rival agency Moody's stripped Britain of a triple-A debt rating, saying government debt was still mounting and that growth was too weak to reverse the trend before 2016.

Fitch said "the RWN reflects the latest economic and fiscal forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility that indicate that UK government debt will peak

later and at a higher level than previously expected".

Gross government debt is now forecast to peak in 2016-17 at 100.8 percent of gross domestic product before starting to decline.

"Fitch has previously stated that GGGD failing to stabilise

below 100 percent of GDP and on a firm downward path towards 90 percent over the medium term would likely result in a downgrade of the UK's sovereign ratings," it added on Friday.

"Fitch's decision to put the UK's AAA rating on negative

watch outlook is entirely predictable," said Howard Archer at IHS Global Insight

The economy is now expected to grow by just 0.6 percent 2013, compared with previous guidance of a 1.2-percent expansion, according to the OBR.

Philippine leader warns 'tax-avoiding' Chinatown

MANILA (AFP) - Philippine President Benigno Aquino Friday warned the nation's ethnic Chinese businessmen who are failing to pay the correct amount of tax to stop evading the law or face prosecution.

A recent government investigation led to "strange" and "truly unexpected" findings that just eight percent of member-firms of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce paid taxes, he told the association's annual convention.

Six in 10 individual members paid no taxes at all, he added.

The president said 38 of the 207 member-firms -- along with 14 of the 552 individual members -- filed returns with

zero tax due despite "unprecedented economic growth" in 2012, when economic output rose by 6.6 percent.

Many others paid less than 100,000 pesos (\$2,446), and some paid less than a thousand pesos (\$24), he said.

The government says tax-dodging is a serious problem in the Philippines, where, along with corruption, poor tax collections leave the state unable to pay for basic services and improve facilities like roads and airports.

The ethnic Chinese control large swathes of the Philippine economy and make up about half of the country's 40 richest individuals in the annual Forbes magazine list.

Since Aquino was elected under an anti-corruption platform in 2010, the justice department and the tax bureau have been aggressively filing tax evasion charges against wealthy business people as well as celebrities.

"Gone are the days when your taxes disappeared into the pockets of an unscrupulous few, or when bending the rules may have been the only way for otherwise honest companies to keep operating," Aquino told the association.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

B	O	M	B	S	P	E	C	I	D	S
O	R	A	L	P	U	S	H	D	I	E
A	B	E	E	A	N	T	I	O	N	T
		N	E	S	S	R	I	S	E	S
L	E	N	D	L	A	P	O			
I	G	O	S	H	A	M	U	P	O	N
M	G	M	E	A	G	E	R	E	P	A
E	Y	E	S	H	A	N	S	N	E	T
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O	A	R	O	V	A	L	D	O	E	R
I	T	E	P	O	R	E	E	A	V	E
L	E	A	E	L	M	O	S	T	E	T



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Mr. Dough Monty
Amount Played: \$3
Won: \$6,141
On Thunder & Struck



Winner: Incognito
Amount Played: \$50
Won: \$3,600
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Cas Animal Cont'd- A super success story



June and Buster

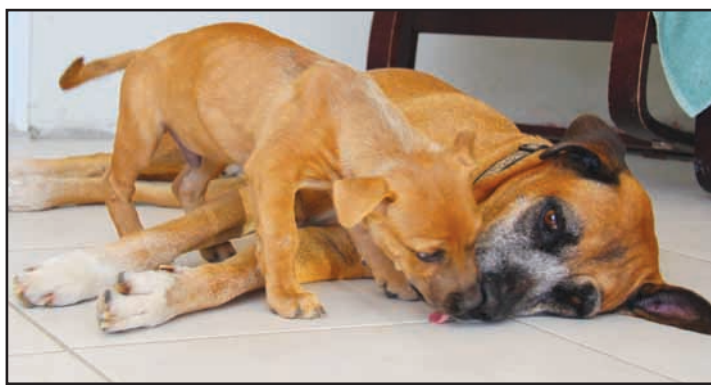
-- For those not familiar with Cas Animal Foundation, it is a local non profit organization which rescues sick, injured, abandoned and abused dogs and cats off Aruba's streets. The foundation is in the process of building a proper no-kill shelter to house over 200 dogs, plus cats, but a top priority of Cas Animal is always to place rescued animals in loving homes.

Animal lovers who have taken in a rescued animal can tell you they may be a bit shy

at first, but quickly respond to kindness and proper care, such as regular feeding and daily attention. They make wonderful protectors of the home and steadfast companions. This week, we have a doubling heartening story to report, as it exemplifies two aspects of pet companionship that are usually not considered

Bringing a young puppy into the home brings with it great responsibility, particularly if they are of the more energetic breeds meant for hunting or herding. These are

dogs meant to live very active, working lives. Owners that complain of a destructive dog, often leave the devoted companion alone for several hours of the day, resulting in boredom and loneliness as they miss their beloved master. Two very good friends of Cas Animal, Frank and June from Canada, who spend half of the year in their home on Aruba, were aware of this, so last year they took in an older dog of a calmer nature, "Grandpa", on



Buster and Grandpa

a foster basis during their annual stay. Of course, they came to love Grandpa too much to leave him behind, and he returned to Canada with them to become a permanent member of their household.

This year, Frank and June again offered foster care for Buster, an adorable puppy who had nearly died from tick fever, but Kirsten Arndt, founder of Cas Animal, will never give up on a young dog, and nursed it back to health. Having a young dog in the house has put some spring back in Grandpa's step, and the two dogs get along famously.

Despite the age differences and personalities, they are a good example of another philosophy of Cas Animal: pets usually will be happier with some sort of animal companionship. Domestic dogs and cats are very social animals, and do not really do well left alone an entire day; pets need pets of their own. "Buster is just a bundle of love," commented June, and both she and Grandpa are enjoying being the objects of his affection. Buster now has a permanent home, and will return with June, Frank and Grandpa to Canada next month.

Cas Animal now cares for nearly 70 dogs. Most are older, calmer dogs, which have gotten past the chewing stage. She also always has some lovely puppies in need of good homes. Her costs for feeding, treating and neutering all the dogs she rescues and maintains are astronomical. If anyone wishes to help, they can support her with donations in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics, call 587-0017 or to Animal Care Clinic in Paradera, 582-8382. Donations can be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, or see one in distress, call Kiki at 742-8732 and she will help you through the process of acquiring the papers and a carrier needed to take one home. This is done regularly and many happy owners find great pleasure in being reminded every day of Aruba by the loving new members of their households.

Mexico to France: stop that auction

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico has asked France to withdraw 130 Mexican pieces from an auction planned this week in Paris at Sotheby's, including 51 from the pre-Hispanic era. Auctions like this "strip these unique and priceless goods of their cultural, historic and symbolic essence, turning them into merchandise or mere novelties," the National Institute of Anthropology and History said. The Mexican government has been opposed to the auction since it saw the catalog for it. The sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday. Mexican experts have analyzed the catalogue and concluded that, of the 130 piece billed as being from Mexico, 51 are "archeological pieces that belong to the nation" and the rest are handicraft pieces of recent making. The anthropology and history institute asked France March 8 to intervene and halt the sale. But the institute did not explain why it also wants 59 pieces it said are of recent manufacture to also be spared from the auctioneer's block.



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Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people are proud to unveil their new pet

project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be the "jewel in the crown" of the nine projects they have successfully completed and

maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paned and doors have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck,

concierge services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

Contact the sales office at 297-732-0000/ 297-287-5300 or visit their website: <http://www.o-eaglebeach.aruba.com>

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming

eater their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of

chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. **They are open from**

11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining.

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from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

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Football: Croatia defeat Serbia in 'historic' game



ZAGREB (AFP) - Croatia on Friday defeated Serbia 2-0 in a highly charged World Cup qualifier -- the first between the two former foes as independent nations since the bloody 1990s war that tore apart the former Yugoslavia.

The match was played amid the frenetic cheering of some 34,000 fans of the Croatia team known as "Vatreni" or "The Fiery Ones" at the Maksimir Stadium.

Virtually all the supporters were either dressed in Croa-

tia's distinctive red and white chequerboard pattern jerseys or wrapped up in Croatian flags.

The win brought Croatia closer to qualification for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil while radically reducing Serbia's chances.

Serbian fans were banned from attending the match -- as are Croatia supporters for the return leg in Belgrade on September 6 -- following an agreement between the two countries' football federations

to curb crowd trouble.

Players and officials from both countries repeatedly tried to ease tensions, urging fans to cheer with "dignity" without resorting to insults.

However, despite police threats that they would stop the match if fans resorted to anti-Serb chanting, insults could have been heard at the start of the match as well as occasionally on the streets and in trams ahead of the tie.

The insults, including chants "Kill a Serb!", stopped shortly after the first goal scored in the 23rd minute by Mario Mandzukic.

No major incidents were reported during the high-risk fixture that was held amid tight security measures.

After the match celebrations continued at the square as well as throughout the capital and in the rest of the country.



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Sport

NBA: Parker ready to return for Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - Tony Parker, the French playmaker for the San Antonio Spurs who has missed three weeks with a sprained left ankle, will be back and available to play on Friday when the Spurs face Utah.

In a Twitter message, the Spurs announced that Parker will be back in the lineup after earlier saying that he would not take the court against the Jazz.

Parker went through a full practice on Tuesday for the first time since the 30-year-old guard was hurt on March 1 in a game against the Sacramento Kings. Tests the following day revealed the severe sprain.

Parker has team-best averages of 21.0 points and 7.6 assists as well as 3.1 rebounds a game over 56 appearances this season.

The Spurs have gone 6-2 in Parker's absence and are 29-4 at home this season.

At 52-16, the Spurs have the best record in the Western Conference just ahead of reigning conference champion Oklahoma City (50-19) and are trailing only Miami (53-14) for the best record in the NBA.

Baseball: Lawsuit filed against doping-linked clinic

MIAMI (AFP) - Major League Baseball filed a lawsuit Friday against Anthony Bosch and five others connected to a clinic that reportedly has provided performance-enhancing substances to several star players.

Also named was Juan Carlos Nunez, who was involved in creating a phony website page for one of the players reportedly involved, Melky Cabrera.

In the lawsuit, the league claims Bosch provided players with testosterone and human growth hormone.

While the filing does not name players, it was Cabrera, Alex Rodriguez, Ryan Braun, Gio Gonzalez and Nelson Cruz who were mentioned by Miami New Times, which first revealed the doping links in a January story.

League officials want "monetary damages and other relief resulting from defendants' tortious interference with MLB's contractual relationships," according to a posting on the league website.

If successful, the league will have an easier time obtaining the information needed to punish any players found to have used performance-enhancing substances.



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Date set for Pistorius bail appeal in S.African court

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - South African Olympic and Paralympic runner Oscar Pistorius, who is accused of murdering his girlfriend, will approach South Africa's High Court next week to appeal his stringent bail conditions, prosecutors said Friday.

The bail conditions imposed on February 22 include the surrender of his passport, making it impossible for Pistorius to travel outside the country, and mandatory drug and alcohol tests.

He was also banned from talking to residents of his up-market gated community in Pretoria, where he shot his model girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day.

The 26-year-old, who became the first double amputee to compete against able-bodied athletes in the Olympic Games last year in London, is currently out on bail of one million rand (\$107,000, 83,000 euros).

He has denied a charge that the murder was premeditated, insisting that he repeatedly shot at Steenkamp through a locked bathroom door having mistaken her for a burglar.

His arrest and bail hearing made world headlines, forcing him to withdraw from all competitions.

Several local and international sponsors have also cancelled deals with the athlete.

Tennis: Injured Azarenka out, Ferrer advances at Miami

MIAMI (AFP) - World No. 3 Victoria Azarenka withdrew with a right ankle injury while Spanish men's third seed David Ferrer advanced by walkover Friday at the WTA and ATP Masters Miami hard-court event.

Reigning Australian Open champion Azarenka complained of ankle pain after a 6-3, 6-1 fourth-round victory over Urszula Radwanska in the Indian Wells quarter-finals last week before withdrawing eight days ago.

"I am very disappointed that I am unable to compete this year in Miami," Azarenka said. "This is one of my favorite events and the Miami fans are



always supportive.

Ferrer moved into the third round of the \$8.5 million tournament when Russian opponent Dmitry Turnsunov withdrew with a stomach bug.

He next faces Italian 32nd seed Fabio Fognini, who beat France's Michael Llodra 6-3, 6-1.

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic plays his first match later Friday against Czech Lukas Rosol while Argentina's fifth-seeded Juan Martin del Potro meets German Tobias Kamke and Russian third seed Maria Sharapova meets Canadian wild card Eugenie Bouchard.

Azarenka, who like all Miami seeds received a first-round bye, is unbeaten on court this year, a 17-0 run that includes the Australian Open

and a title in Doha.

But she has twice surrendered matches by walkover, the first in January at a Brisbane semi-final against Serena Williams with an infected right toe that resulted from a pedicure.

Azarenka was replaced in the Miami draw by 19-year-old US lucky loser Lauren Davis, who saved three match points in the deciding tiebreaker to defeat compatriot Madison Keys 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (9/7).

Davis, ranked 81st, never expected to even have the chance to play after watching Azarenka warm up in the morning. Now she awaits either Britain's Laura Robson and France's Alize Cornet to decide a spot in the last 16.

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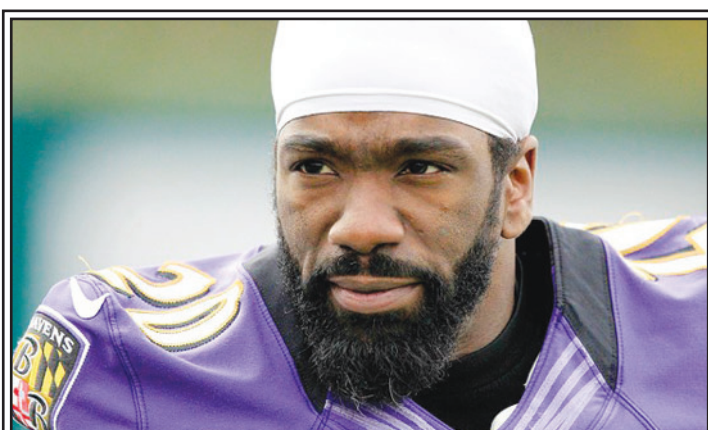
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HOUSTON (AFP) - Ed Reed, the star safety who helped the Baltimore Ravens win last month's Super Bowl, signed a National Football League free agent deal with the Houston Texans on Friday. The contract, reportedly worth \$15 million over three years, lured Reed away from a team where he played since being taken by the Ravens with the 24th pick in the 2002 NFL Draft. Reed has 61 interceptions in 160 career NFL games, including seven of them returned for touchdowns. He has led the NFL in interceptions in three of his 11 NFL seasons. Reed, selected to the Pro Bowl all-star game nine times, made 58 tackles and four interceptions in 16 games last season, but joined an exodus of talent from the Ravens since the championship run was completed. Ravens superstar linebacker Ray Lewis and center Matt Birk retired while receiver Anquan Boldin was traded to San Francisco, safety Bernard Pollard was released and signed with Tennessee, free agent linebacker Dannell Ellerbe went to Miami and free agent linebacker Paul Kruger went to Cleveland.

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2013 NCAA tournament :



KANSAS CITY, The Ole Miss Rebels are the latest No. 12 seed to pull off a victory in the NCAA tournament's round of 64, decisively defeating the Wisconsin Badgers 57-46 on Friday in Kansas City's Sprint Center.

Outspoken guard Marshall Henderson was once again very inefficient, making just six of his 21 shots from the field, but he led the way for the Rebels with 19 points in this defensive struggle.

The front line of Murphy Holloway and Reginald Buckner also gave Ole Miss out-

standing production against the fundamentally sound, sizable Badgers interior. Holloway put up 10 points and snagged nine rebounds, while Buckner racked up 12 boards and finished one point short of a double-double.

Wisconsin actually maintained the pace it wanted and kept one of the nation's highest-scoring teams in check. However, the Badgers simply couldn't hit anything on the afternoon, shooting a woeful 25.4 percent from the field. Forward Sam Dekker was the only player in double figures

for Wisconsin with 14 points.

Many of Henderson's looks were clean, but the shots simply didn't fall. Henderson did make five of his final eight shots, though, keying the Ole Miss offense in the second half as it outscored the Badgers 35-21.

An encouraging run to the

Big Ten tournament final didn't translate to March Madness success for Bo Ryan's squad, who lost for just the second time in 13 appearances at this stage of the tournament.

As for Ole Miss, the winner of the impending matchup be-

tween the Kansas State Wildcats and LaSalle Explorers awaits in Round 3. The Rebels will be hoping for another upset in this portion of the bracket, as the Wildcats would continue to have the home-state advantage.



No. 2 Seed Duke Beats Albany 73-61



PHILADELPHIA --Seth Curry and Mason Plumlee played this game with a no-nonsense attitude giving rise to an easy victory for the Duke Blue Devils. Duke beat the Albany Great Danes, 73-61. Curry led the way with 26 points and six rebounds, while Plumlee added 23 points and eight rebounds. These two players combined for 49 points, while making 19 out of 25 field goals. Although Ryan Kelly scored only eight points, he was Duke's defensive presence in the low post due to blocking three shots and grabbing six rebounds.

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